

## **Table 2. Rabies Postexposure Prophylaxis Guide, Based Upon Evaluation and Disposition of Animal — U.S. 1999**

### **DOGS, CATS, AND FERRETS**

- If animal is healthy and available for 10 days observation, do not begin prophylaxis unless animal develops clinical signs of rabies.
- If animal develops clinical signs of rabies, immediately vaccinate patient.<sup>a</sup>
- If animal's condition is unknown (e.g., it escaped), consult public health officials.

### **BATS; SKUNKS, RACCOONS, FOXES, AND MOST OTHER CARNIVORES**

- Regard as rabid unless animal proven negative by laboratory test. Consider immediate vaccination.<sup>b</sup>

### **LIVESTOCK; SMALL RODENTS; LAGOMORPHS (RABBITS AND HARES); LARGE RODENTS (WOODCHUCKS, BEAVERS); OTHER MAMMALS**

- Consider each case individually; consult public health officials.
- Generally, the bites of squirrels, gerbils, hamsters, guinea pigs, rats, mice, other small rodents, rabbits and hares, and chipmunks rarely require antirabies prophylaxis.

<sup>a</sup> During the 10-day observation period, begin postexposure prophylaxis at the first sign of rabies in a dog, cat, or ferret that has bitten someone. If the animal exhibits clinical signs of rabies, it should be euthanized immediately and tested.

<sup>b</sup> The animal should be euthanized and tested as soon as possible. Holding for observation is not recommended. Discontinue vaccine if immunofluorescence test results of the animal are negative.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Rabies prevention—United States, 1999. *MMWR Morbid Mortal Wkly Rep* 1999;48(RR-1):1-21.